

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:RVPERINA  
APPROVED BY EUR:GVEST  
D:SOXMAN  
C:RHOPPER  
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS  
EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR  
EUR/RPE:RHOMME

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF BELGRADE MEETING: FRENCH OBJECTION  
TO NATO REPORT FOR THE SUMMIT

REF: USNATO 3782 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH REFTEL THAT FRENCH OBJECTION  
TO NATO CSCE REPORT FOR THE SUMMIT RAISES POSSIBILITY  
OF DANGEROUS PRECEDENT TO ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF ALLIED  
CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE AND OTHER SUBJECTS. FRENCH  
POSITION SINCE LAST SPRING ON CSCE CONSULTATIONS AMONG  
15 MAKES CLEAR THAT ISSUE AT STAKE TRANSCENDS REPORT  
ITSELF AND TOUCHES ON ABILITY OF NATO TO SERVE AS  
EFFECTIVE FORUM FOR CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF DIRECT  
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EAST-WEST RELEVANCE. WE THUS BELIEVE WE SHOULD URGE  
FRENCH RECONSIDERATION PRIOR TO APRIL 27 NAC WHEN ISSUE  
IS LIKELY TO COME TO A HEAD.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST EMBASSY PARIS TO SEEK  
EARLIEST POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT WITH MERILLON OR  
ANDRIANI TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) NATO REPORTS ON CSCE HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR EVERYMINISTERIAL SINCE HELSINKI AND ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE DECEMBER 1967 HARMEL REPORT WHICH URGES THE ALLIANCE TO PURSUE A POSITIVE POLICY OF SEEKING REALISTIC SOLUTIONS TO FURTHER EAST-WEST DETENTE.

B) THE PROCESS OF PREPARING REPORTS ON CSCE HELPS TO HIGHLIGHT THE RANGE OF ALLIED VIEWS ON ISSUES AND IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME AS A MEANS OF ANALYZING AND GAINING PERSPECTIVE ON THE RESULTS OF THE BELGRADE MEETING.

C) NATO CONSULTATIONS DO NOT INHIBIT EC9 COOPERATION OR INDIVIDUAL APPROACHES TO CSCE AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE REPORT CANNOT REFLECT THAT THERE ARE DIVERGENT ALLIED VIEWS ON CERTAIN SUBJECTS.

D) TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO ALLY EXCEPT FRANCE OBJECTS TO THE PREPARATION OF A REPORT, AND MOST ALLIES ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO PREPARING SUCH PAPERS IN VIEW OF THE BROAD SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CSCE PROCESS TO EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

E) THE UNITED STATES CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE RECENT FRENCH VIEW THAT PREPARATION OF A PAPER ON CSCE IS CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROPRIATE ONLY FOR THE NINE BUT NOT FOR THE FIFTEEN. SUCH A VIEW RUNS COUNTER TO LONG-ESTABLISHED PATTERNS OF CONSULTATIONS AND TO THE MANDATE AND TRADITION OF NATO AS A POLITICAL AS WELL AS DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE.

F) WE ACCORDINGLY HOPE THAT FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE WILL NOT OPPOSE PREPARATION OF SUCH A REPORT AT APRIL 27 NAC. WE ARE, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO WORK WITH FRENCH AND OTHER DELEGATIONS TO ENSURE THAT NATO PAPER ACCURATELY REFLECTS VIEWS OF ALL ALLIES.

CHRISTOPHER

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